

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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SUBJ: ISTANBUL REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY LEADER COMMENTS ON
PARTY IN-FIGHTING; STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS

REF: ISTANBUL 3101

SUMMARY: ISTANBUL REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY

(RPP) LEADER DENIES EXISTENCE SERIOUS IDEOLOGICAL RIFT WITHIN
PARTY, ALLEGES FACTIONS MERELY MANEUVERING ON EVE COUNTY
ELECTIONS. ALSO STATES RPP SEEKING KEEP OWN YOUTH AWAY FROM
DEMONSTRATIONS. END SUMMARY

1. COMMENTING ON NEWSPAPER REPORTS OF INTRA-PARTY CONFLICT,
ISTANBUL RPP PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN AYTEKIN KOTIL TOLD US NOV. 13
MEDIA HAVE EXAGGERATED THE USUAL JOCKEYING FOR POSITION THAT
PRECEDES PARTY ELECTIONS. THE RPP WILL BE HOLDING ITS COUNTY
(ILCE) CONGRESSES ON NOV. 16 AND 17. SINCE COUNTY DELEGATES
WILL ELECT PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN DEC. 7 - 8, THERE HAS BEEN A
SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT ELECTION EVE MANEUVERING BY ASPIRANTS
FOR COUNTY CHARMANSHIPS. KOTIL BELIEVES THAT NO SERIOUS
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IDEOLOGICAL RIFT EXISTS, THAT PROVINCIAL ORGANIZATION IS IN

CONTROL SITUATION, AND THAT HE WILL BE RETURNED AS CHAIRMAN AT PROVINCIAL CONGRESS.

2. IN DISCUSSION OF RECENT DEMONSTRATIONS (REFTEL) AT ISTANBUL UNIVERSITIES, KOTIL SAID RPP YOUTH ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED USE INFLUENCE TO KEEP RPP-ORIENTED YOUTH FROM PARTICIPATING IN POLITICALLY MOTIVATED PROTESTS. KOTIL BLAMED OUTSIDE EXTREMISTS FROM BOTH RIGHT AND LEFT FOR SEEKING EXPLOIT STUDENT DISCONTENT FOR OWN IDEOLOGICAL ENDS. HE ARGUES THAT IF RPP SUPPORTERS REMAIN UNINVOLVED, EXTREMISTS WILL DISCREDIT THEMSELVES.

3. COMMENT: KOTIL'S COMMENTS ON HIS CONTROL OVER DISSIDENTS WITHIN PARTY MAY CONTAIN SOME ELEMENT BRAVADO, SINCE IT IS HARD TO JUDGE DEGREE OPPOSITION HE WILL FIND AT PROVINCIAL CONGRESS. KOTIL, WHO LACKED PREVIOUS POLITICAL EXPERIENCE, WAS PICKED BY ECEVIT FOR JOB IN MAY 1973 WHEN PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE RESIGNED. COMMITTEE MEMBER FARUK ERGINSOY, WHO WAS CHOSEN BY EXISTING PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE TO FILL CHARMANSHIP VACATED BY ALCDTOPUZ, HAS CHARGED RESIGNATION ENGINEERED IN ORDER ALLOW KOTIL'S APPOINTMENT, AND, IN CUMHURIYET OF NOV. 8, ACCUSED KOTIL OF CONDONING IRREGULARITIES IN PARTY ELECTION PROCEDURES. SINCE KOTIL IS ASSOCIATED WITH MODERATE (EYUBOGLU) WING OF RPP, HE IS ALSO TARGET FOR LEFT-WING (DEMOKRATIC SOL) FACTION WITHIN THE PARTY. THUS IT DIFFICULT TO TELL TO WHAT EXTENT FERMENT IN PARTY HERE DUE TO IDEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS AS OPPOSED TO PERSONAL RIVALRIES AND ANIMOSITIES. AS FOR STUDENT DISRUPTIONS, IT SIGNIFICANT THAT KOTIL ACKNOWLEDGED INVOLVEMENT OF EXTREMISTS OF BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT SINCE USUAL TENDENCY OF RPP LEADERS HERE HAS BEEN TO PUT BLAME ENTIRELY ON FAR RIGHT.

WILLIAMS

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